The on-going problems plaguing Alice Springs Hospital show no sign of ending with the hospital facing a critical shortage of nurses over Christmas and two wards expected to close, CLP Shadow Health Minister, Jodeen Carney said today.

"And while the health problem grows the Territory's Health Minister has disappeared from the Territory with no explanation to Territorians," Ms Carney said.

"Where is the Territory's Health Minister? He should be in Alice Springs fixing the problems at the Alice Springs Hospital.

"The Hospital will be 60 nurses short over Christmas, according to the Australian Nursing Federation, yet the Minister is no where to be found. He should do what he is paid to do and spend some time in Alice Springs fixing the problems."

On October 12th, Minister Toyne issued a media release headed: 'Government Delivers on Nurse Numbers'. Ms. Carney said that the people of Alice Springs deserve to be treated better.

"The Health Minister lives in Alice Springs, and should know how important our hospital is to our community, but he continues to ignore problems that exist," Ms Carney said.

"Maybe the Government could have the courtesy to let Territorians know where the Minister has slipped off to and just who is attending to the Health Ministry and its current problems."

Ends